

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06157 121359Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 6157

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM XO
SUBJ: US-SOVIET TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITATIONS

REF: STATE 159404

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE PROMPT AND COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE WHICH WAS PROVIDED REFTEL FOR MY ORAL BRIEFING OF SHAH ON INDIAN OCEAN AFFAIRS. DURING JULY 12 AUDIENCE, I READ MOST OF TEXT VERBATIM TO SHAH. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED NOT ONLY WITH THE FACT OF THE BRIEFING, BUT ALSO ITS SUBSTANCE.

2. HE SAID HE FELT US POSITION WITH SOVIETS WAS "JUST RIGHT". HE ALSO SAID SOVIET TACTICS, AS DESCRIBED REFTEL, WERE JUST ABOUT WHAT HE HAD EXPECTED. HE WAS INTERESTED TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD ADMITTED USE OF FACILITIES IN SOMALIA AND SEEMED WILLING TO INCLUDE THEM IN TALKS.

3. HE ALSO SAID SOVIET POSITION ABOUT US FRIENDS AND ALLIES WAS A BIT THICK FOR A COUNTRY WHICH HAS DEFENSE AGREEMENTS WITH AT LEAST TWO COUNTRIES (INDIA AND IRAQ) WHICH ARE LITTORAL STATES.

4. SHAH THEN WENT INTO AN ACCOUNT OF HIS "GRAND DESIGN" FOR INDIAN OCEAN, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE "COMMON MARKET" OF
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INDIAN OCEAN STATES, SELF-POLICING ARRANGEMENTS BY LITTORAL NAVIES, ETC.

5. AS FINAL COMMENT, HE SAID THAT US-SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM INDIAN OCEAN COULD BE CONSIDERED OUR "IDEAL", BUT HE FELT WE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT SOVIETS WOULD EVER AGREE VOLUNTARY TO SUCH WITHDRAWAL.

SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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